

In the Hashimoto patent cited by the IPE Examiner, the Authorized Sender List used by Hashimoto is a list of subscribers to the TV email system that have registered and are authorized to send email. It is not a list of "authorized senders" to an individual subscriber which has been created by scanning the addresses to whom the individual subscriber has previously sent email and therefore presumably knows the person and would welcome email to be sent from that person. Like all email systems, the Hashimoto system only scans the FROM and TO addresses of the subscriber's email in order to maintain a log identifying the email the subscriber has sent and received.

The MsgTo.com reference cited in the Third Information Disclosure Statement also states that a key list of names to whom email has been sent (as well as anyone who passes a first-time-sender test that only a human can pass, is used to block out bulk mail to be put in a folder for the recipient to access later.

Thus, the prior art does not scan the TO addresses of the subscriber's email in order to compile a list of persons from whom email sent to the subscriber is determined to be authorized, nor the FROM address of email sent to the subscriber to determine if the email should be rejected by returning an error message to the sender.

FOURTH INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98. The reference

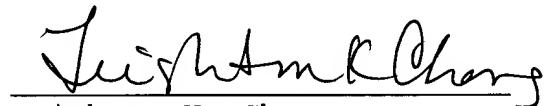
listed on the appended Form PTO-1449a, A copy of which is enclosed, may be deemed to be pertinent to the above-identified patent application and are made of record to assist the U.S. Patent Office in its examination of the same.

No fee is deemed to be required with this Statement, since it is being filed within three months of receipt of notice of the reference in an IPE Written Opinion and before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is being mailed on August 15, 2001, by depositing it with the U.S. Postal Service, first class postage paid, addressed to Commissioner of Patents, Box: Non-Fee, Washington, D.C., 20231.

Respectfully submitted,
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